

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are currently amended.

Claims 18-24 are new.

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to clarify claim language.

The amendments to the claims are supported by the claims, as originally filed, and throughout the specification.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-24 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is requested.

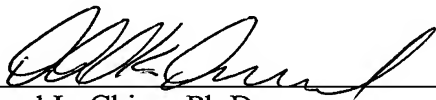
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
NFO:RLC:DKD:la:aps


Richard L. Chinn, Ph.D.
Registration No. 34,305

Donald K. Drummond, Ph.D.
Registration No. 52,834